

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. In Figure 1, the legend "PRIOR ART" has been added.

REMARKS

The necessary correction to Figure 1 is made herewith.

The claims have been amended as needed so as to sharpen their definition of the invention relative to the prior art.

Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over SANO Japanese Patent JP 402194800 in view of KIMURA Japanese Patent JP 355075397, or further in view of OHTA et al. or URYU et al.

As the Examiner states, SANO does not expressly disclose that the reinforcing member comprises any one of plain weave, honeycomb weaving and triaxial weave. Further, as the Examiner states, KIMURA and OHTA do not teach that the reinforcing member comprises triaxial weave. Therefore, if a skilled person combines these references, he or she cannot be taught the feature that the reinforcing member comprises triaxial weave.

In addition, as the Examiner states, SANO does not expressly disclose that the reinforcing member is made of any one of nonwoven fabric and triaxial combined nonwoven fabric. Further, as the Examiner states, KIMURA and URYU et al. do not teach that the reinforcing member is made of triaxial combined nonwoven fabric. Therefore, if a skilled person combines these references, he or she cannot be taught the feature that the reinforcing member is made of triaxial combined nonwoven fabric.

Further, as the Examiner states, SANO and KIMURA do not expressly disclose that the reinforcing member is made of nylon fiber. Therefore, if a skilled person combines the references, he or she cannot be taught the feature that the reinforcing member is made of nylon fiber as recited in claim 3.

Consequently, if a skilled person combines these references, he or she cannot be taught the feature that the reinforcing member comprises triaxial weave and/or is made of triaxial combined nonwoven fabric.

All the rejections should accordingly be withdrawn.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix:

The Appendix includes the following item:

- Replacement Sheet for Figure 1